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PATENT

Application # 10/667,060

Attorney Docket # 2002P15893US01 (1009-175)

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully thanked for the consideration provided to this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Each of claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 31, and 32 has been amended for at least one reason unrelated to patentability, including at least one of: to explicitly present one or more limitations, phrases, words, terms, and/or elements implicit in the claim as originally written when viewed in light of the specification, thereby not narrowing the scope of the claim; to detect infringement more easily; to enlarge the scope of infringement; to cover different kinds of infringement (direct, indirect, contributory, induced, and/or importation, etc.); to expedite the issuance of a claim of particular current licensing interest; to target the claim to a party currently interested in licensing certain embodiments; to enlarge the royalty base of the claim; to cover a particular product or person in the marketplace; and/or to target the claim to a particular industry. Support for the amendments to each of claims 1, 14, 22, and 32 can be found at least at Fig. 2 and paragraphs 28 and 29 of the present application as published (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2004/0117535). It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-32 are now pending in this application. Each of claims 1, 14, 22, and 32 are in independent form.

I. The Anticipation Rejections

Each of claims 1, 6, 7, and 32 was rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). In support of the rejection, various portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,301,612 ("Selitrennikoff") were applied. These rejections are respectfully traversed as moot in view of the current claim amendments.

Specifically, claim 1, from which each of claims 6 and 7 ultimately depends, states, *inter alia*, yet the applied portions of Selitrennikoff do not teach, "reassigning resources in a soft programmable logic controller (PLC), said soft PLC comprised by a single computer, said reassigning comprising the steps of: selecting a first interface in a first operating environment of

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the soft PLC; selecting a virtual slot in a second operating environment of the soft PLC for installation of the interface". For at least this reason, a reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Also, a reconsideration and withdrawal of each rejection of claims 6 and 7, each depending from independent claim 1, is respectfully requested.

Claim 32 states, *inter alia*, yet the applied portions of Selitrennikoff do not teach "a soft programmable logic controller (PLC) comprised by a single computer; a first software component to select an interface in a first operating environment of the soft PLC; a second software component to select a virtual slot in a second operating environment of the soft PLC for installation of the interface". For at least this reason, a reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 32 is respectfully requested.

II. The Obviousness Rejections

Each of claims 2-5, 8-31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of U.S. Patent No. 6,301,612 ("Selitrennikoff"), U.S. Patent No. 6,725,260 ("Philyaw"), and/or U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0041088 ("Wilson"), U.S. Patent No. 6,658,465 ("Touboul"), U.S. Patent No. 6,675,226 ("Nair"). Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed as moot in view of the current amendments to the claims.

As stated, *supra*, claim 1, from which each of claims 2-5 and 8-13 ultimately depends, states, *inter alia*, yet the applied portions of Selitrennikoff do not teach, "reassigning resources in a soft programmable logic controller (PLC), said soft PLC comprised by a single computer, said reassigning comprising the steps of: selecting a first interface in a first operating environment of the soft PLC; selecting a virtual slot in a second operating environment of the soft PLC for installation of the interface". For at least this reason, a reconsideration and withdrawal of each rejection of claims 2-5 and 8-13, each depending from independent claim 1, is respectfully requested.

Claim 14, from which each of claims 15-21 ultimately depends, states, *inter alia*, yet the applied portions of Selitrennikoff do not teach, "automatically reassigning resources in a soft programmable logic controller (PLC) comprised by a single computer, said automatically reassigning comprising the steps of: identifying a resource to be reassigned from a first

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processing mode of the soft PLC to a second processing mode of the soft PLC". For at least this reason, a reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 is respectfully requested. Also, a reconsideration and withdrawal of each rejection of claims 15-21, each depending from independent claim 14, is respectfully requested.

Claim 22, from which each of claims 23-31 ultimately depends, states, *inter alia*, yet the applied portions of Selitrennikoff do not teach, "a soft programmable logic controller (PLC) comprised by a single computer; a means for selecting a first interface in a first operating environment of the soft PLC". For at least this reason, a reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 is respectfully requested. Also, a reconsideration and withdrawal of each rejection of claims 23-31, each depending from independent claim 22, is respectfully requested.

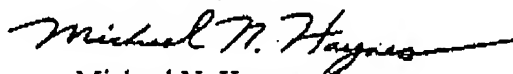
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application as amended is in clear condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2504. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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